



Jumping in at Cape Cod National Seashore

The Groundwork Lawrence Green Team, Boston African American NHP's Trailblazers YCC, and the Thompson Island Green Corp YCC recently visited Cape Cod National Seashore for a camping trip and to help work on a bike trail project. The Trailblazers' Deidre Griffiths gives GreenBeat the highlights from their two days of seaside fun and service.

By: Deidre Griffiths
Trailblazers Youth Conservation Corp

On our first work day in Cape Cod we worked on the bike trail at Cape Cod National Seashore. Under the supervision of the crew, we cleared unwanted vegetation, raked leaves, and removed branches and thorns, making the trail safer for visitors. After a long day of work, we settled down for dinner and as dusk began to fall we took a trip to the beach with Thompson Island Green Corps YCC and GW

Lawrence Green Team. Members from the different groups shared poems, songs, and even dance at what I'd like to call our first annual bonfire.

Our second day on the Cape was far more exciting because we had a chance to actually ride on the same bike trail we cleared the previous day. I think I can speak for everyone when I say how satisfying it was to see all the work we were able to accomplish, and we all anticipated the rewarding swim in the ocean a mere 9 miles away. The ride paralleled life's journey: you have the hills, valleys, and plateaus, but (hopefully) after all the hard work and sacrifice, you can relax and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

At the end of the day, I feel that this year's trip to Cape Cod was one of the best in my four years as a Trailblazer. Beside the work and the fun, we had a chance to really bond with Green Corps and GW Lawrence, and bridged the gap to hopefully create a more meaningful and longer-lasting relationship among the groups. **G**

(More on page 2)



Exploring New York Harbor's History and Environment

Green Teams from GW Elizabeth and GW Yonkers along with Boston African American NHS's Trailblazers YCC and the Gateway National Recreation Area's YCC visited Governors Island National Monument and African Burial Ground National Monument. In the heart of New York Harbor, the two National Park sites gave the 44 youth the chance to learn about history and take in some great views. Keep reading below for two first-hand accounts of their fun experience.

good condition for the public to come and enjoy American historical landmarks.

Then we were given a tour of the island and saw the buildings that were restored, such as the officers' yellow homes and the hospital. At the end of the tour we arrived at Castle Williams and everyone helped gather the hay scattered on the ground. From this trip and the people we have met, we expanded our knowledge of how we can improve our city, while preserving what is already there for generations to come. **G**

By: Julianne Pelaez and Gina Pelaez
Groundwork Elizabeth Green Team

On August 14 of 2007, a few of us from the GW Elizabeth New Jersey Green Team took a trip to Governor's Island to come together with other youth groups of environmental preservationists from around the Northeastern region. After two ferry rides, we met with the head of the NPS maintenance team on the island, who gave us a brief introduction on how the buildings and landscaping are kept in



(More on page 3)

By: Jennifer Jean-Baptiste
Trailblazers YCC

I used to live in (Brooklyn) New York but I've never got a chance to actually be in New York the way I was with Trailblazers. I saw the statue of Liberty for the first time in my life; it was amazing. We stayed on Staten Island at the Navy Lodge, a place that I didn't even know existed. We visited Time Square which was crazy- all the lights and people- it was exactly like they show it on MTV. We also got a chance to walk up and down Canal Street which was probably the highlight of my total experience in New York. We got lost a few times and our feet were hurting from all the walking, but it was just nice to be with each other cracking jokes and shopping for things we needed for school.

appreciated. From the moment I stepped off the ferry I felt like I was in a different place. There were lots of trees and grassy fields and the air was clean and fresh. We toured the island with a resource specialist who told us how the National Park Service had recently acquired the island. On the tour we saw lots of old buildings that were being renovated and the fort that used to protect NY harbor. We all helped remove some hay from one of the old tunnels and then had lunch. On our lunch break we took the chance to bond and get to know everyone a little better. After lunch we jumped back on the ferry and rode the bus with the GW Yonkers Green Team to the African Burial Ground NHS. We watched a 30 minute video and I learned that remains of former enslaved Africans were buried in NY. I was shocked because I never realized that there were so many slaves in NYC. The Sankofa symbol, which meant learning from your past to prepare for the future, really stuck with me because I learned that you always have to revise your past in order to go on, that's how we as a society learn to do better and make things right. 

While in NY we had the opportunity to work with other groups- Groundwork Yonkers, Groundwork Elizabeth, and the YCC crew from Gateway National Park. My experience with the group from Yonkers is one that I will never forget. They were a large group of gifted and talented kids. They shared with me how they worked on gardening projects and how much they enjoyed working outside and doing something positive in their community. On Governors Island we had lots of fun playing games and getting to know each other. It was great to see another side of New York where nature is cared for and

